

**Robert Willis**

**From:** Edmondson-Cooper, Jana J - SOL <EdmondsonCooper.Jana@dol.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:48 AM  
**To:** Isa Gratacos-Padro; Robert Willis  
**Cc:** Yoana Caceres  
**Subject:** RE: Amended Settlement

Good Morning All,

Please note the U.S. Department of Labor ("Department") does not represent any individual plaintiffs. The Department represents the Department's Wage and Hour Division with regard to violations of the FLSA WHD determined the employer ( defendants in the section 16(b) private right of action) committed related to WHD's investigation of the employer.

Additionally, please note the Department cannot provide any guidance or legal advice to the parties of the Section 16(b) private right of action. The 16(b) case is a separate legal action, which the Department is not involved in, and applicable to each of the plaintiffs named in the that case who retained Mr. Willis for representation in the private action. The Department's suit did not terminate that representation. Therefore, Mr. Willis is the only attorney of record representing plaintiffs in the private action.

In consideration, going forward, please remove me from settlement communications between the two of you regarding the 16(b) matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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 Jana J. Edmondson-Cooper | Trial Attorney (Bilingual)  
 U.S. Department of Labor – Office of the Solicitor  
 (404) 302-5458 (Office) | [EdmondsonCooper.Jana@dol.gov](mailto:EdmondsonCooper.Jana@dol.gov)

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**From:** Isa Gratacos-Padro <[isa@eawoodlaw.com](mailto:isa@eawoodlaw.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:03 AM  
**To:** Robert Willis <[RWillis@rjwillis-law.com](mailto:RWillis@rjwillis-law.com)>; Edmondson-Cooper, Jana J - SOL <EdmondsonCooper.Jana@dol.gov>  
**Cc:** Yoana Caceres <[caceres@rjwillis-law.com](mailto:caceres@rjwillis-law.com)>  
**Subject:** Amended Settlement

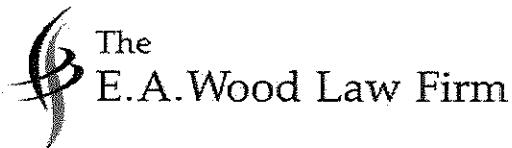
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Mr. Willis:

Yesterday I met with the Plaintiffs to discuss the Amended Settlement agreement you emailed me only to discuss the release clause and the effect it would have with their immigration matter. I could not fully discuss it with them as they were concerned as to other provisions in the agreement. The Plaintiffs at this moment would like a meeting with you so you can explain each of the terms and conditions of this Amended Settlement. I can tell you that the Plaintiffs were a bit confused as to the Amended Settlement and the justification given in the email you sent. They were also a bit confused because they were unsure as to who was their legal counsel for this matter. One of the Plaintiff's, Mr. Juarez-Chavez, said that the agreement was only applicable to him and Ms. Mendoza since the others were being represented by the attorney of the US Department of Labor. Also, they stated that they were not going to agree to a one sided non-disparagement clause. I am willing to arrange the meeting. We can do a video conference from my office. Let me know how you would like to proceed.

Sincerely,

**Isa Gratacós-Padró, Esq.\* | The E.A. Wood Law Firm | 1318C Commerce Street, New Bern, NC 28562**  
P. 252-375-8710 | |E. [isa@eawoodlaw.com](mailto:isa@eawoodlaw.com)  
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